



SOUTHEAST NEWS

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Starvation Death Harsh Reality in Nigeria-Biafra

In May 1967, the Eastern region of Nigeria seceded to form Biafra, with a population of 13 million. Eight million are Ibos, mostly Christian. Will these 13 million people isolated and blockaded by land and sea live or starve to death?

Crux of the impasse is military-political. Church World Service cannot "take sides," but briefly, the situation as reported from many objective sources places blame for refusal of the Nigerian government to open land, sea, or air routes to the blockaded areas of starvation upon Nigerian government-military leaders. Biafran spokesmen accuse them of using mass starvation as a "military weapon."

On the other hand, the Federalists allege that Biafran leaders refuse assistance from Federalist forces, claiming the foodstuffs may be poisoned. Some observers charge that Biafran leaders are attempting to use mass starvation as a means of arousing sympathy for the Biafran cause to bring world pressure on the Nigerian government to call a halt to its military actions.

The church, seeking to meet human need, wherever it is found, must offer aid to victims of this conflict on both sides of the line. Church World Service has a base of operations in Lagos on the Federal side, and has supplied food, medicines, and medical personnel. Amount of food getting through the blockade is meagre compared to vast need. Up until August 11, CWS and CROP shipped a total of 956,212 pounds of emergency foods, medicines, and other vital materials both into Nigeria and directly into Biafra, the latter through air flights. Total funds already sent include \$110,000 in cash. Value of materials sent up until August 11, 1968, totaled \$285,585.

Church World Service seeks to raise \$1,000,000. YOU CAN HELP through offerings sent either to Southeast Conference Office, Box 29883, Atlanta, Ga. 30329, or directly to Church World Service, 475 Riverside Drive, New York, N.Y. 10027.

Regardless of merits or demerits of the claims of either side, the cold hard reality is as follows: approximately 13,000 Biafrans are dying each day from starvation, and estimated of eventual mass death range from 2 to 6 millions within six months.

The Church Must Respond

The church, the “body of Christ,” is confronted today with millions who face death by starvation in the next few months. Christ, our Lord, fed men who had been hungry but for a day. If Christ were concerned enough to feed those who were temporarily hungry, then the “body of Christ” must be concerned enough to feed the starving. We dare not wash our hands of persons in such tragic need.

The church must see that they are fed. Direct action is required of us now—contribute sacrificially. And all the influence that the church can bring to bear upon the governments involved, including our own, must be focused upon these governments until the starving are adequately fed.

Send your contributions to:

BIAFRA-NIGERIA RELIEF FUND
SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE
BOX 29883
ATLANTA, GA. 30329

Or to:

BIAFRA-NIGERIA RELIEF FUND
CHURCH WORLD SERVICE
475 RIVERSIDE DRIVE
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10027

‘Sounds, Soundings From Southeast Asia’

With the attention of so much of the world focused on Southeast Asia, the new record, “Sounds and Soundings from Southeast Asia,” has special meaning. The guide describes its as “an attempt to reflect in an authentic way the youth culture of Southeast Asia; to show what young men and women of that area are thinking and feeling about subjects that concern them.

Subjects include “America and Americans,” “The Southeast Asia War,” “Government and Politics,” and “Religion” as viewed by youth of Thailand, Vietnam, Singapore, Malaysia, the Philippines and Laos. Excellent suggestions for use are given, including discussion questions.

Also included is one band of Southeast Asia music from all of the above countries except Malaysia. This omission is due to the fact that Malaysian students show no interest in traditional or indigenous music. They are interested chiefly in Western pop and folk music.

This interesting record is available from the Conference office.

Holy Land Tour Is Planned for 1969

Outstanding on the list of seven United Church 1969 tours is a Holy Land Summer Session, offered in cooperation with Eden Seminary on our instigation, either for credit or audit. It has unusual features: Eight days of lectures by outstanding leaders, in combination with twelve days of investigation and

exploration of holy places, all centered in the American Institute of Holy Land Studies on Mount Zion, Jerusalem.

The Holy Land tour is April 9-30, and the cost is \$899. The Holy Land Summer Session, July 10-31, will cost \$845. For further information, write the Southeast Conference Office for a descriptive folder.

World Ministries Board To Meet in Greensboro

Some 300 persons are expected to attend the 1968 annual meeting of the United Church Board for World Ministries, which will be held Nov. 10-14 at the Greensboro Congregational (UCC) Church, 400 Radiance Drive, Greensboro, North Carolina

The Rev. E. O. Floyd, pastor of the host church, has noted that this will be the first time a national board of the denomination has met in the Southern Conference.

The keynote speaker will be the Rev. Philip Potter, associate general secretary and director of the Division of World Mission and Evangelism of the World Council of Churches, Geneva, Switzerland.

Among the other speakers will be Dr. Elmer L. Severinghaus, M.D., Brookfield Center, Connecticut, president of UCBWM, and the Rev. Dr. Alford Carleton, executive vice-president of the Board. The meeting will also bring together overseas guests and missionaries home on furlough from many parts of the world. Members of the Southeast Conference serve on the 48-member Board of Directors. They are R. A. Kampmeier of Chattanooga and Dr. Fred W. Munson of Pleasant Hill, Tennessee.

GREETINGS TO—

Andrea Lynn Cooper, born August 22, 1968, to the Rev. and Mrs. Andrew L. Cooper, pastor and wife of First Church, Birmingham, Alabama.

Elon Home Receives Memorial Rose Garden

A beautiful memorial rose garden was dedicated at the Elon Home for Children on Sunday, June 30.

The garden, to be called the Melinda Hobbs Byrd-Eva Cook Powell Memorial Garden, was given to the home by Mr. and Mrs. Rex G. Powell, of Fuquay-Varina, N.C. The Powells presented the garden in memory of their mothers.

Participating in the service were the Rev. Dr. John G. Truitt, former superintendent of the Home, the Rev. Thomas R. Hamilton, pastor of the Elon Community Church, and the Rev. Dr. W. W. Snyder, executive director of the home.

Fall Association Meetings

October 5 – North Alabama, Old Liberty Grove, 9 a.m.

October 8 – Alabama-Tennessee, First, Nashville, 10:30 a.m.

October 11 – Georgia-South Carolina, Davis Cafeteria, Macon, 10:30 a.m. (2 associations)

October 12 – South Alabama-Northwest Florida, Good Hope, Baker, 10:30 a.m.

October 16 – East Alabama, Lanett, 10:00 a.m.

October 17 – East Alabama, Antioch, Roanoke, 10:00 a.m.

October 19 – Tennessee-Kentucky, Pleasant Hill, 10:00 a.m.

October 26 – Alabama-Mississippi, Talladega, 10:00 a.m.

October 27 – Central Alabama, Watson's Chapel, Eclectic, 2:30 p.m.

1969 General Synod Delegates Are Elected

The General Synod, which meets every two years, will be held June 25-July 2, 1969, in Boston, Massachusetts.

In accordance with the Constitution and By-Laws of the United Church of Christ, which stipulate that not more than half the delegates from a conference may be ministerial delegates, two lay members and one minister were elected from the Southeast Conference.

Our delegates are Mrs. W. W. Hall, the Rev. Homer C. McEwen, William R. Green, Jr.

Curriculum Of United Church Is Challenging

"A curriculum is not a package of books, filmstrips, and the like, coming through the mail. It is not a thing or a stack of things. It is not material to be learned. It is a course to run, a task to do, a purpose to realize. It is the work of Christ's church, working in many local churches." – Roger Shinn

ROCKWELL RESIGNS

Lee W. Rockwell, general secretary of the UCBHM Division of Health and Welfare Services since its organization in 1961, leaves October 1, to become administrator of the Fort Wayne, Indiana Children's and Maternity Homes.

Dr. Rockwell became the first executive secretary of the E and R Commission on Health and Welfare when it was formed in 1960. From 1946 to 1960 he was director of the Uhlich Children's Home in Chicago.

Maddocks Heads Social Action

Dr. Lewis I. Maddocks, Washington, D.C., was elected executive director of the Council for Christian Social Action of the United Church of Christ.

He will take office at the national headquarters of the denomination in New York City, January 2, 1969. He succeeds the Rev. Dr. Ray Gibbons, White Plains, New York, who is retiring.

A political scientist, Dr. Maddocks will have responsibility for action and study programs on social, economic, political, and international affairs in the United Church of Christ.

Winterbottom Eases Up Bit

Bill Winterbottom, pastor of our Crossville, Tenn. church, recently resigned his responsibilities with the Chamber of Commerce, the American Red Cross, and the Mental Health Association. His doctors advise more rest following treatment and tests for an apparent heart condition.

Mr. Winterbottom continues to serve as moderator of the Tennessee-Kentucky Association and on the Board of Directors of the Southeast Conference.

Books, Study Guides For 'Racial – Urban' Crises

Report of the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders—\$1.25 (Bantam Books), popular bookshelves. Study materials available from Central Distribution Service, 1505 Race Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19102:

Crisis in the Nation: Hope Through Action (25c)

Focus — Winter-Spring 1968 issue. Excellent study and action guide for youth in dealing with the Kerner Report. (20c) From Office of Literature Sales, 1505 Race Street.

Guidelines for Responding to the Crisis in the Cities (20c)

Blacks Insist/Whites Resist (35c)

(address above)

June issues of **Youth, Colloquy**, and **Update**.

Film and filmstrip resources:

In the Heat of the Night — motion picture.

Nothing But A Man, 16mm, \$50.00, from Brandon Films, Inc., 221 West 57th Street, New York, N.Y. 10010.

From Office of Audio Visuals, 1505 Race Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19102:

"A Time for Burning"—\$15.00 rental

"Right Now"—\$12.00 rental

"No Hiding Place"—\$10.00 rental

From the Southeast Conference Office:

"Is Your Church Burning?"—study-action filmstrip and record based on Kerner Report.

Newsweek. November 20, 1967, "What Must Be Done?" (Reprints available from National Council of Churches, Department of Publication, 475 Riverside Drive, New York, N.Y. 10027, nominal cost. Special listings of resources on the national emergency for children and adults available from Friendship Press thru denominational bookstores.

What can our churches do toward the elimination of racism and the solution of problems arising from racism? To answer that question, the above list of resource materials is being produced and distributed for use.

SPOTLIGHT: How Will You Vote?

During the next few weeks many churches will provide an opportunity to answer the question raised by this year's Christian Enlistment theme ("In the struggle for justice and peace, what will you do?"), when they ask each member to indicate how much he will try to give for the church's work in 1969. Will you help your church do more in 1969 in the struggle for justice and peace?

You may not have thought about it in this way, but when you fill out your pledge card for 1969 during your church's Christian Enlistment, you are doing just that—voting. You are voting on the work you want your church to do next year.

If you decrease your commitment or keep it the same as this year, you are voting to do less. If you increase your pledge slightly, you are voting to do just about the same as this year, because next year's ministries will cost somewhat more due to inflation. If you increase your declaration of intention significantly, you are voting to help your church do more in the struggle for justice and peace.

One vote may not seem very important by itself, but when it is added to the votes of others it can make a tremendous difference. For example, if each member gives \$1 a week more in 1969, the churches of the Southeast Conference will receive \$581,204 more than in 1968. Such an increase would enable our churches not only to expand their local programs, but also to meet their goals for Our Christian World Mission in full and to make a substantial contribution to the new **Crisis in the Nation** program.

How will you vote when you fill in your card during your church's Christian Enlistment?

John Anderson Goes to California Church

The Rev. John F. Anderson, who has served as pastor of our Brookmeade Church in Nashville, Tennessee, has accepted a call to First Congregational Church of Fresno, California, as associate pastor. He left August 26th and will begin his new work in September.

The new address for the Andersons is:

First Congregational Church

2131 North Van Ness Boulevard

Fresno, California 93704

Mr. Anderson began his work at Brookmeade September 1, 1965. Last year, the church began operating a weekday nursery school. This year, a director and an assistant have been employed, with an enrollment of 38 children in two classes.

The Andersons have two boys in college, one in the Memphis School of Art.

Savannah Church Renovates Building

The First Congregational Church of Savannah, Georgia returned home to its recently renovated sanctuary Sunday, September 1.

Improvements were made to the inside, outside, lighting, heating, floors, carpet, and public address system.

The renovation is, they hope, symbolic and promise of the church's intention to fulfill its mission in the community.

Rev. Neil A. Mosley serves as supply minister.

John R. Potts Replaces John E. Morse on Board For Homeland Ministries

John R. Potts, San Francisco, California, western area secretary of the Church Finance Advisory Service of the United Church of Christ, has been transferred to the New York office of the denomination where he will be responsible for processing church loans and grants.

In his new post he will be dealing with requests from churches for loans and grants in the neighborhood of two million dollars annually. He takes over this responsibility from John E. Morse, now chairman of the Department of Church Development of the Board's Church Extension Division.

NEIGHBORS IN CRISIS OFFERING

The "Neighbors in Crisis" all-church offering is your first opportunity to help finance the new "Crisis in the Nation" program of the United Church of Christ.

Sample interpretive and promotional materials for this offering, which is suggested for October 6, or Worldwide Communion Sunday, will be found in the Stewardship Council Packet for Fall 1968, which was mailed to your church in July. If you have not ordered your materials, do so immediately in order that they will reach you in time. Your offering should be clearly marked "Neighbors in Crisis" when you send it to your Conference office. This offering replaces the "Neighbors in Need" effort.

More than forty project requests totaling \$8,000,000 are currently being evaluated and processed by the Committee for Racial Justice in the

denomination's new and all-important "Crisis in the Nation" program. Among the requests received are:

—A request from the Delta Ministry for support of three things: help in establishment of small, Negro-owned businesses in Mississippi, help in organization of welfare recipients, and help in the establishment of a black newspaper to function without threats of white advertiser sanctions.

—Requests from urban community organization groups in Chicago, New York, Buffalo, Dayton, St. Louis, and Detroit for support of their programs with the poor, basically self-help projects.

—Requests from United Church of Christ congregations in Philadelphia, New York, Milwaukee, Cleveland, and St. Albans, New York for funds to expand existing programs of work with youth in the ghettos.

—A request from the Poor Peoples Corporation of Jackson, Mississippi for funds to help create a series of producing cooperatives and a single marketing cooperative with several outlets, all desperately needed to break the stranglehold of discrimination in jobs, prices, and market outlets. The Board for Homeland Ministries, the Committee for Racial Justice, and ecumenical agencies will review and coordinate funding of proposals.

During 1969, congregations are, in addition, challenged to donate amounts equal to 1% - 5% of their current operating expenses to the "Crisis in the Nation" program.

UC Youth Hold Rally

The East Alabama-West Georgia UCY held a summer rally at the Oak Grove Congregational Christian Church, Pine Mountain, Georgia, July 27-28. The theme was "The Local Church in God's Mission."

Discussions, filmstrips, skits, picnics, and recreation were enthusiastically entered into by the teens.

The youth packaged the materials they had collected for the Indians in South Dakota.

Miss Ann Nelson of the Elder Church in Dadeville, Alabama spoke at the Sunday worship service.

The next rally will be held in Columbus, Georgia October 19.

Douglas Horton Dies

The Reverend Dr. Douglas Horton, internationally-known ecumenical leader, retired minister and secretary of the General Council of Congregational Christian Churches, and dean of Harvard University Divinity School, died August 21 in Randolph, New Hampshire.

Dr. Horton led negotiations resulting in the formation of the United Church of Christ in 1957 and was a leader in the formation of the World Council of Churches.

An author of 14 books, Dr. Horton was an official observer at the Vatican Ecumenical Council in Rome.

DR. REST DIES

The Rev. Dr. William L. Rest, 64, minister of the Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ, died August 13 after a brief illness. He was elected minister of the Illinois Conference in 1964.

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This transcription was recorded on November 4 and 5, 2013 by Mike Stroud, director of Project 66-16, an initiative to record, compile and write the history of the Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ.

PROJECT

